

Release dated December 11 revised to reflect change in date of tree removal

Removal of American Elm at Corner of McMillan and Hirst

PARKSVILLE, BC: The City of Parksville will act on a report by an independent International Society of Arboriculture arborist and staff recommendations to remove one of the City's memorial trees located at the corner of McMillan Street and Hirst Avenue. Removal of the tree will be completed before the end of January.

On inspection, the 90 year old American Elm was found to be in an advanced stage of declining health with dead wood in the upper canopy and extensive decay in the upper branches, caused by the practice of tree topping, quite common 35 to 40 years ago. Unfortunately, in its current condition, the tree represents a significant hazard which will only increase as it continues to decline. In order to ensure the safety of the public it has been determined that the tree must be removed.

The City's cenotaph was originally situated at the end of Memorial Avenue in the centre of the road, in front of the McMillan Street School, now the home of the McMillan Arts Centre. After the First World War, Memorial Avenue was chosen to commemorate the men from Parksville who died serving overseas in the war. The street led to the cenotaph and the elm trees were planted in memory of fallen soldiers. This tree is one of the original memorial trees and in recognition of its historical significance, will be replaced with another American Elm as well as several other American Elms to be planted along McMillan Street.

Trees are rated using the TRACE (Tree Risk Assessment in Urban Areas and the Urban/Rural Interface) method which is designed and administered by the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture and has been recognized by WorkSafeBC as the standard for assessing trees in urban areas and at the urban/rural interface. Residents may wish to refer to www.treesaregood.com, an educational website.

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For more information:

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